

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08

COME-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 126629

R 071733Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1726

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUDOU

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AF, BE

SUBJECT: GRAIN DONATIONS TO SAHEL

REF: STATE 167108

1. IN ACCORD WITH PARAGRAPH 6 REFTEL WE CALLED ON ACTING
CHIEF OF AFRICA SECTION (RAMBOUX) OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION DIVISION TODAY. AFTER INFORMING RAMBOUX OF USG
ANNOUNCEMENT TO SAHEL GRAIN AND PROTECTIVE FOOD CONTRIBUTION
AND RATIONALE THEREFOR, WE ASKED WHAT BELGIAN PLANS

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FOR FUTURE SAHEL AID.

2. RAMBOUX SAID THAT IN CURRENT YEAR BELGIUM HAD SENT 2,000 TONS OF GRAIN TO SENEGAL, 6,000 TONS TO MALI AND 2,000 TONS TO UPPER VOLTA. AN ADDITIONAL 6,500 TONS WERE ALLOCATED FOR SHIPMENT TO MAURITANIA, MALI AND UPPER VOLTA UNDER CURRENT PROGRAM. RAMBOUX SAID BELGIAN AUTHORITIES FELT NO URGENCY TO PUSH REMAINING 6,500 TONS OUT BECAUSE AFRICAN PORTS, PARTICULARLY COTONOU, WERE CURRENTLY JAMMED.

3. HE SAID BELGIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAINTAIN FOOD-AID TO SAHEL THROUGH 1974 LEVEL DURING CROP-YEAR EVEN THOUGH AUTHORITIES HERE WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT HARVEST WILL IMPROVE. HE COMMENTED THAT CURRENT RAINS HAD INSPIRED SOME OPTIMISM HERE. HE SAID BELGIUM WOULD NOT REDUCE GRAIN SHIPMENTS IN 1975 (UNLESS A SIGNIFICANT GRAIN-PRICE RISE SQUEZZED BELGIAN AID BUDGET) EVEN IF SAHEL HARVEST WERE VERY GOOD, SINCE THERE REMAINED A NEED TO REBUILD NON-EXISTANT FOOD RESERVES.
RENNER

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30 JUN 2005

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